



## SUCCESS STORY

### Single Mothers' Radio Listening Club Demonstrates the Power of Women



**MS. CISSY KAKYOMYA,  
FOUNDER OF THE KITANYATA  
SINGLE MOTHERS' RADIO CLUB  
IN UGANDA**

The power of a group of women is evident through the activities of the Kitanyata Single Mothers' Radio Listening Club in Kyenjojo District, Uganda. Under the leadership of Ms. Cissy Kakyomya, in 2004 the club was formed with 35 members in response to a call by the Ministry of Health and the USAID-funded UPHOLD Project as part of a Radio Listening Club program. The club initially planned to gather on a regular basis and listen to radio programs on a variety of health, primary education, and HIV/AIDS topics and use their collective energy as single mothers to assist widows, orphans, school leavers, and the elderly through education.

After listening and discussing the programs, Ms. Kakyomya and her club decided to expand their goal to sustainable development. Within one year, the Single Mothers' Radio Listening Club registered with the district government and increased membership to more than 500 people in four sub-counties, all without any outside funding.

The group of single mother's combined their limited resources to buy land, and with the help of men and women in their community, they constructed a temporary office. This has enabled them to open a Community Learning Centre. From there, they established HIV/AIDS clubs that provide information and counsel members, along with a single mothers' outreach component.

Member initiated, income generating projects have funded ongoing activities, including dairy farming, goat and pig rearing, banana and cardamom farming, craft making, and a Credit and Savings Village Bank outlet.

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